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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/017,990	12/14/2001	Xiaoju Wu	TI-31214	8404

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EXAMINER

FARAHANI, DANA

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2814

DATE MAILED: 02/12/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/017,990

Applicant(s)

WU ET AL.

Examiner

Dana Farahani

Art Unit

2814

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 December 2002.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 20 February 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8, 13, 15, 17, 21-24, 27, 29, and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Husher (U.S. Patent 5,179,432), previously cited.

Regarding claims 1, 8, 13, 15, 17, 21-24, 27, 29, and 30, Husher discloses in figure 3 an electronic circuit, comprising: a semiconductor substrate 100; a first layer 110 in a fixed physical relation to the semiconductor substrate; a well 160 formed in the first layer, wherein the well comprises a first conductivity type and has a side dimension and a bottom dimension; a first enclosure 180, and 170, surrounding the side dimension and the bottom dimension of the well, wherein the first enclosure comprises a second conductivity type complementary of the first conductivity type and has a side dimension and a bottom dimension; and a second enclosure (190 and substrate 100) surrounding the side dimension and the bottom dimension of the first enclosure, wherein the second enclosure comprises the first conductivity type.

Regarding claim 2, layer 150 is a buried layer (see column 4, lines 53-56).

Regarding claim 4, layer 170 is adjacent layer 150.

Regarding claim 5, layer 110 is an epitaxial layer (see column 4, lines 53-60).

Regarding claim 6, see figure 3.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 3, 7, 10, 14, 25, 26, and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Husher, as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Taniguchi (U.S. Patent 5,399,510).

Regarding claims 3, 7, 10, 14, and 25, Husher discloses the claimed invention, as discussed above, except for the first conductivity type being n-type, and the second conductivity type being p-type. Taniguchi teaches at column 7, lines 5-9, that PNP and NPN transistors are equivalently produced in the art. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to make the first conductivity type n-type, and the second conductivity type p-type in order to make a PNP bipolar transistor instead of an NPN bipolar transistor, since they are both used in the art according to a particular application.

Regarding claims 26 and 28, Husher discloses a dosage of 5×10^{15} for buried layer 170 with an energy of 80 KeV (see column 4, lines 63-68).

Husher does not disclose an energy on the order of 60 KeV.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to lower the energy in order to adjust the ion implantation process

with the existing ion implanting environment, that is temperature and time, and also, it has been held that discovering an optimum value of a result effective variable involves only routine skill in the art. *In re Boesch*, 617 F.2d 272, 205 USPQ 215 (CCPA 1980).

5. Claims 9, 11, 12, 16, 18, 19, and 20, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Husher as applied to claims 8 above, and further in view of S.M. Sze, Semiconductor Devices, Physics and Technology, previously cited.

Husher renders the claimed invention obvious, as discussed above, except for a circuitry connecting the first terminal (first enclosure) to the second terminal (second enclosure).

Sze discloses on page 139, figure a, and the paragraph above the figure, a circuitry at the left hand side of the figure for connecting the base of a bipolar transistor to the emitter in order to obtain the switching characteristic of the transistor, shown below figure "a". The first enclosure and the second enclosure are emitter and base, respectively. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a circuitry to connect the base and emitter in order to obtain the switching characteristic of the bipolar transistor in Husher's invention.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicants' arguments filed 12/2/02 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicants argue that the Husher reference does not have the five elements required by independent claim 1. Applicants further argue that independent claim 1 does not support examiner's interpretation.

Claim 1 recites, among other things, "...a semiconductor substrate...a second enclosure surrounding the side dimension and the bottom dimension of the first enclosure, wherein the second enclosure comprises the first conductivity type".

Husher, in fact, discloses five layers, namely, substrate 100, a first layer 110, well 160, a first enclosure 180, and the second enclosure consisting of region 190 and at least an upper portion of the substrate 100. The fact that the substrate is merged with region 190 does not make the substrate and region 190 a single region. The substrate and region 190 are not the same thing. As stated above, the claim calls for a second enclosure, which encloses the first enclosure. However, one cannot conclude from this statement that the substrate and the second enclosure have to be separate, and cannot be in a merged configuration, since the statement in the claim does not state, implicitly or explicitly, that the substrate and the second enclosure are entirely separate elements. As discussed above, the substrate can be merged with the second enclosure, and this merged structure does not make them only one element.

Applicants further argue that figure 2(c) of the instant disclosure does not support examiner's interpretation. In response to this argument, note that although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

Conclusion

7. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dana Farahani whose telephone number is (703)305-1914. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00AM - 6:00PM.

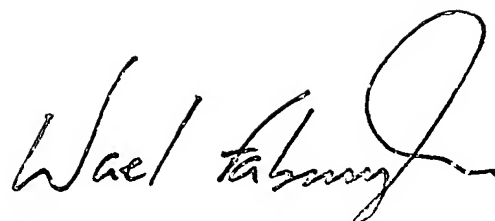
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wael Fahmy can be reached on (703)308-4918. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703)872-9318 for regular communications and (703)872-9319 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)308-0956.

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Art Unit: 2814

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Dana Farahani
February 4, 2003

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wael Tabany". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

SUPERVISORY PRIMARY EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2000